

due solely to the strength of his necromancy.

As usual the superstitious savages believed him and his prestige increased accordingly. Although he was esteemed as something of a coward, they feared his power as a medicine man.

Escapes Into Canada After Custer Debacle

After the massacre he escaped into Canada and remained about twelve years, but after a precarious existence he gladly accepted the amnesty promised by General Miles and returned to the United States and surrendered a handful of followers, mostly old men and women. He was kept at Fort Randall as prisoner for two years, then sent to the Standing Rock agency where he was crushed into submission by Major McLaughlin, who told him his days of chieftaincy were over and that he might eat, if he worked. He went to work and might have developed into a tractable Indian but for the fact the government made the mistake of loaning him for exhibition purposes. His vanity was so much flattered that he was difficult to handle on his return to the agency. He became morose and was in a state of mind to cause more trouble at the outbreak of the Messiah Craze in 1890.

Piute Indian Founded Red Man Messiah Craze

Briefly, this fanatical religious cult was the outgrowth of a story told by a Piute Indian named Wovoka, who posed as a disciple of the Red Messiah sent to prepare his people for his reign. He preached resistance and destruction of the whites, to rid them from the land. His doctrine was to create enthusiasm by sacrificial dances.

This preaching appealed to Sitting Bull, who bitterly hated the whites, so he went into this cult with a great deal of ardor and kept up these ghost dances, as they were called, for weeks. He was living at his camp on the Grand River, South Dakota, where he had a couple of houses with a stable and corral.

The state of the Indians became such that Major McLaughlin saw in it a menace to the peace of the reservation and the safety of the settlers. The government became impressed and sent troops to protect the whites from these vagrant bands.

Major McLaughlin watching Sitting Bull through the eyes of his Indian police, realized this leader must be taken into custody. So an order was issued Dec. 15, 1890, that the military and Indian police carry out the rest. Here follows the simple unadorned story of brave Sergeant Red Tomahawk as told by him, how these orders were carried out—

McLaughlin Summons Red Police To Help

"I was a sergeant of Indian police. A few days before this fight with Sitting Bull's people, Major McLaughlin sent me to bring back a man by the name of Buffalo Bill (Cody), who was on his way to have a talk with Sitting Bull. I started after him at night time.

"It was cold.

"When I got down on Four Mile creek, I looked for him. I could not see his party. I rode down the banks towards a house there. Halsey, a Sioux lived there. There was no light in the house. I went in. About five men were there.

"They were sitting about a table talking. I said, 'I have come from the agent. You must go back with me now.' Buffalo Bill did not say a word, but they all went back with me. That was all about that.

"I was on duty at the agency. All the police came there for a talk. I was on duty that day. I did not know what they talked about.

"Lieut. Bull Head gave them all

man and trouble maker for the whites, who was killed by a bullet fired from the gun of Red Tomahawk, Indian policeman. Red Tomahawk died this fall.

cartridges but me. I asked him for some. He said I would be at the agency and could get some when I needed them there. They rode away then.

Sitting Bull Dancers Camped On Grand River

"A day or two after they went away, Hawk Man came riding hard at sunset. He carried a letter from Jack Carrigan who was on the Grand River. Sitting Bull's camp of dancers were down that way. Then White Hair (Major McLaughlin) called me in the office and shut the door.

"He wrote two letters. He put them in coverings. He gave that to me. He said, 'Now you have something to do. You give this to Bull Head sure. You are all to arrest Sitting Bull before morning. You say to Bull Head to arrest him and not let him get away or be rescued.'

"I knew there would be a fight. It was a dangerous mission for me. So I said, 'I have a wife and some children. If I fail, who will look after them?' 'If you fail,' he said, 'the government will give you a gold medal and take care of your family.' Then we went into the store house and he picked out a bolt of white cloth and gave it to me.

I also got a lot of cartridges. I tied the white cloth to the saddle. I had a government horse. Then I said, 'what is the white cloth for?' 'That is for the police,' he said. 'It will be dark then. Tear each man a piece. They can wear it then. You will be able to tell your friends from the enemy that way.'

'I Rode Hard Through The Night, Kept Silent'

"Then I started to ride. He told me to go to Oak Creek. There I would see some police. I did not know what spot to go to. I rode away from Fort Yates then. I did not sing after I left the agency.

"I knew it was secret. I got to Oak Creek. It was very dark. I rode about for a time. I yelled for the police. No one answered me. Then I started for Grand River. I rode hard then. There were many trails. I did not know them all.

"I came to the Grand River brakes and started down into the valley. I rode along and at last I crossed the river to the south banks. There was timber there. Then I saw a light. I rode toward it then. I was stopped by a guard of police as I came near the house. We went into the house when I told him who I was.

"I forgot something. When I crossed Four Mile Creek, I crossed it by the house of Callous Leg. Then I heard some wagons going along. That was about 10 miles from the agency.

"I stopped and waited for those wagons. There were four of them. They belonged to the camp of One Bull. He was the nephew of Sitting Bull and a hostile dancer. He wanted to know where I was going and what I was doing. I told him that I was going out here a little ways. So he did not know much.

Six Policemen Are To Make the Raids

"The agent told me that I would find six policemen at Oak Creek. Eagle Man would be in charge of them. So when I missed them, I went to search for Bull Heads place. When I got there where the guard was it was Bull Head's place. I was glad for that. I found a number of police in that house. The two De Rocky Brains were there too. I gave Lieut. Bull Head the message I carried. These two De Rocky Brains read them and interpreted them to us.

"We knew there was a fight ahead of us then. Before we left the house

horses to a wagon rack and to a shade place. We went on foot behind one another. The people were through dancing and were asleep. We circled the log house of Sitting Bull. Every one was quiet yet, but the horses made much noise.

I Kicked Into the Room; Sitting Bull Was There

"I ran to the door of the house. Shave Head was with me. I kicked the door. Shave Head pounded it with his gun. It jumped open then. I struck a match. There was a stove in the room. Sitting Bull was in the southwest corner of the room on a mattress. Other people were in the house, too. I saw Sitting Bull. The match went out then. I jumped for Sitting Bull before he could get his knife. I said, 'I am Red Tomahawk, the government sent me. You are arrested. If you fight you shall be killed here.'

"Shave Head, Good Voice Eagle, Little Eagle and myself were in the house then. Someone scratched a match. Sitting Bull's wife went out of the house. She did not have on many clothes. Sitting Bull was naked. I said to him, 'Dress quickly.' He said 'Hao.' That's all. He did not say anything else. He was not talking.

"I pulled him up on his feet. One Feather and Good Voice Eagle helped him put on his moccasins and something else. Then I cried out to get his horse. We had him. Now we would get him away. We started to take him from the house. He spread his arms and legs in the doorway.

"Eagle Man had to kick his legs to get him loose again. We brought him out. He had not said anything.

Hostiles Yelling 'Kill' Surround Valiant Police

"When we got out there, there were many hostiles around. One or two of them were yelling 'Kill, Kill.' We were taking him away from the house." His wife had a son who was deaf and dumb. He was there. He made a terrible sound and big disturbance. Then Sitting Bull cried out 'Alright, I refuse.' At the same time I heard two hostiles say 'He-He!' That's what a mad Sioux says when he is mad. Just as I heard that sound, Bull Head said, 'Uncle, we don't want trouble.' I heard another man say 'Hoo-o, Hoo-o' and I heard two shots.

"One was by Catch the Bear and the other came from Strike the Kettle. They were mad hostiles. I shot Sitting Bull then through the body. He fell down on his face then. A man struck at me with a stone club. He missed me. I shot at him. 'I believe that I missed him. Then Bull Head said, 'I am shot.' I started to where he lay. I bumped into a man. I shot him. I got down by Bull Head. I gave him my pistol and I took his rifle.

"Then after that, I can't say much about it. There was much excitement all around us. When I got to Bull Head a man came running with a knife. It was Spotted Horn Bull. I shot at him but missed and he went away. As he went, Lone Man knocked him down with his rifle. It was very dark yet. There was much smoke and dust.

"I was in charge after Bull Head and Shave Head were shot. I said, 'Get into the house. Knock the mud from the chinks of the logs. Fight there.' Then I thought the stable might be a better place. I went there. I saw some dead police there. I found Bull Head and Shave Head.

"They were both wounded badly. We carried them on blankets into the house then. We laid them on an old mattress. When we lifted the mattress we found Crow Foot under it. He was Sitting Bull's young son. He was about 17 years.

"Bull Head said, 'Kill him, I'm dying now.' I hit Crow Foot then and knocked him down. He laid partly out of the door and a little inside the house. Lone Man and One Feather then shot him dead there. We threw him out of the house.

"Then we charged out of the house.